

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

memory means for separately storing functional generation information and application software;

managing means for managing first functional generation information as functional information of that corresponds to the application software stored in said memory means;

obtaining means for obtaining second functional generation information as functional information of that corresponds to the application software, wherein the second functional information is registered in an information providing apparatus, wherein the information providing apparatus is remotely located from said information processing apparatus and connected to said information processing apparatus via a network, and wherein said obtaining means obtains said second functional generation information based on a basis of said first functional generation information;

comparing and determining means for comparing said first functional generation information and said second functional generation information with each other and for determining which of said first or second functional generation information is a newest functional generation information; and

information updating means for, when said comparing and determining means determines that said second functional generation information is newer than said first functional generation information, updating said first functional generation information stored in said memory means to said second newest functional generation information, such that said memory means contains said second functional generation information.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising passage determining means for determining whether a predetermined time has passed on a basis of said first functional generation information,

wherein when said passage determining means determines that said predetermined time has passed, said obtaining means obtains said second functional generation information registered in said information providing apparatus via said network.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising application software updating means for updating the application software stored in said memory means using to application software corresponding to said second functional generation information when said comparing and determining means determines that said second functional generation information is newer than said first functional generation information.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising function determining means for determining whether said application software has a function corresponding to said second functional generation information when said comparing and determining means determines that said second functional generation information is newer than said first functional generation information,

wherein when said function determining means determines that said application software does not have the function corresponding to said second functional generation information, said application software updating means updates the application software

stored in said memory means using the to a newest application software corresponding to said second functional generation information.

5. (Currently Amended) An The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 3, characterized by further comprising:

medium determining means for determining whether a recording medium is loaded; and

reading means for reading third functional generation information as functional generation of that corresponds to an application software recorded on said recording medium when said medium determining means determines that said recording medium is loaded,

wherein said comparing and determining means compares said third functional generation information as well as said first functional generation information and said second functional generation information with each other and determines which of the first, second, or third functional generation information is a newest functional generation information,

wherein said information updating means updates said first functional generation information stored in said memory means to said newest functional generation information, such that said memory means contains said newest functional generation language, and

wherein said application software updating means updates the application software stored in said memory means using to newest application software corresponding to said newest functional generation information.

6. (Currently Amended) An The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that: wherein when said obtaining means does not obtain said second functional generation information via said network, said comparing and determining means compares said first functional generation information and said third functional

generation information ~~with each other~~, and determines which of said first or third functional generation information is said newest functional generation information.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that: wherein when said comparing and determining process determines that said second functional generation information and said third functional generation information are identical with each other, said information updating means updates said first functional generation information stored in said memory means to said third functional generation information, such that said memory means contains said third functional generation language; and

wherein said application software updating means updates the application software stored in said memory means using application software corresponding to said third functional generation information.

8. (Currently Amended) An information processing method characterized by comprising:

~~an obtaining step for obtaining second functional generation information as functional information of that corresponds to an application software, wherein the second functional information is registered in an information providing apparatus, wherein the information providing apparatus is remotely located from said information processing apparatus and connected to said information processing apparatus via a network, and wherein said second functional generation obtaining includes obtaining functional information based on a basis of a first functional generation information as functional information of that corresponds to the application software stored in a memory;~~

~~a comparing and determining step for comparing said first functional generation information and said second functional generation information with each other and determining which of said first or second functional generation information is a newest functional generation information; and~~

~~an information updating step for, updating, when it is determined by a process of said comparing and determining step that said second functional generation information is newer than said first functional generation information, updating said first functional generation information stored in said memory to said second functional generation information such that said memory contains said second functional generation information.~~

9. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium including computer executable instructions, wherein the instructions, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method A recording medium on which a computer readable program is recorded, said program characterized by comprising:

~~an obtaining step for obtaining second functional generation information as functional information of that corresponds to an application software stored in a memory of a computer, wherein the second functional information is registered in an information providing apparatus, wherein the information providing apparatus is remotely and separately located from the computer and connected to the computer via a network, and wherein obtaining second functional generation information obtains said second functional generation information based on a basis of first functional generation information as functional information of that corresponds to the application software stored in the memory of the computer;~~

~~a comparing and determining step for comparing said first functional generation information and said second functional generation information with each other and~~

determining which of said first or second functional generation information is a newest functional generation information; and

an information updating step for, updating, when it is determined by a process of said comparing and determining step that said second functional generation information is newer than said first functional generation information, updating said first functional generation information stored in the memory of the computer to said second functional generation information, such that the memory of the computer contains said second functional generation information.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium including computer executable instructions, wherein the instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method program characterized by making a computer perform a process comprising:

an obtaining step for obtaining second functional generation information as functional information of that corresponds to an application software, wherein the second functional information is registered in an information providing apparatus, wherein the information providing apparatus is remotely located from said information processing apparatus and connected to said information processing apparatus via a network, and wherein obtaining second functional generation information obtains said second functional generation information based on a basis of first functional generation information as functional information of that corresponds to the application software stored in a memory;

a comparing and determining step for comparing said first functional generation information and said second functional generation information with each other and determining which of said first or second functional generation information is a newest functional generation information; and

~~an information updating step for, updating, when it is determined by a process of said comparing and determining step that said second functional generation information is newer than said first functional generation information, updating said first functional generation information stored in said memory to said second functional generation information, such that said memory contains said second functional generation information.~~

11. (New) The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said functional generation information is a combination of cryptographic keys, functions, and protocols, such that said functional generation information is shared among a plurality of application software located in said memory means.

12. (New) The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said information processing apparatus is a personal computer, wherein said information providing apparatus is a server configured to provide said personal computer a music content distribution service;

wherein said application software receives a copyrighted material from said music content distribution service; and

wherein said functional generation information enables said application software to receive and use said copyrighted material.

13. (New) The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said information processing apparatus is a personal computer, wherein said information providing apparatus is a server configured to provide said personal computer a music content distribution service;

wherein said recording medium is a optical disc; and

wherein third functional generation information corresponds to said application software located on said personal computer.

14. (New) The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:
determining whether a predetermined time has passed on a basis of said first functional generation information; and
obtaining, when said determining determines that said predetermined time has passed, said second functional generation information registered in said information providing apparatus via said network.

15. (New) The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising updating the application software stored in said memory to application software corresponding to said second functional generation information when the determining determines that said second functional generation information is newer than said first functional generation information.

16. (New) The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:
determining whether said application software has a function corresponding to said second functional generation information when the determining determines that said second functional generation information is newer than said first functional generation information;
and
updating, when said determining determines that said application software does not have the function corresponding to said second functional generation information, the application software stored in said memory to a newest application software corresponding to said second functional generation information.

17. (New) The computer readable medium including computer executable instructions, wherein the instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method as claimed in claim 10, said method further comprising:

determining whether a predetermined time has passed on a basis of said first functional generation information; and

obtaining, when said determining determines that said predetermined time has passed, said second functional generation information registered in said information providing apparatus via said network.

18. (New) The computer readable medium including computer executable instructions, wherein the instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method as claimed in claim 10, said method further comprising updating the application software stored in said memory to application software corresponding to said second functional generation information when the determining determines that said second functional generation information is newer than said first functional generation information.

19. (New) The computer readable medium including computer executable instructions, wherein the instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method as claimed in claim 10, said method further comprising:

determining whether said application software has a function corresponding to said second functional generation information when the determining determines that said second functional generation information is newer than said first functional generation information; and

updating, when said determining determines that said application software does not have the function corresponding to said second functional generation information, the

application software stored in said memory to a newest application software corresponding to said second functional generation information.

20. (New) An information processing apparatus comprising:
- a memory configured to separately store functional generation information and application software;
 - a managing unit configured to manage first functional generation information that corresponds to the application software stored in said memory;
 - an obtaining unit configured to obtain second functional generation information that corresponds to the application software, wherein the second functional information is registered in an information providing apparatus, wherein the information providing apparatus is remotely located from said information processing apparatus and connected to said information processing apparatus via a network, and wherein said obtaining unit obtains said second functional generation information based on said first functional generation information;
 - a comparing and determining unit configured to compare said first functional generation information and said second functional generation information and configured to determine which of said first or second functional generation information is a newest functional generation information; and
 - an information updating unit configured to update said first functional generation information stored in said memory to said newest functional generation information, when said comparing and determining unit determines that said second functional generation information is newer than said first functional generation information, such that said memory contains said second functional generation information.